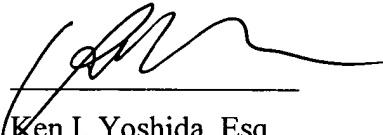


**Amendment to the Specification:**

Please insert between "OPTICAL SWITCHING APPARATUS AND OPTICAL SWITCHING METHOD" and "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION" the following sentence as a cross reference to related applications:

This is a continuation of prior application Serial No.: 09/964,577 filed on September 5, 2001 under 35 CFR 1.53(b) ,

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ken I. Yoshida, Esq.  
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Date: December 4, 2003

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